



2005 Farm Bill Programs Activity in the Lower South Platte River Watershed

The Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) is a voluntary program that helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture. It provides matching funds to state, Tribal, or local governments and non-governmental organizations with existing farmland protection programs to purchase conservation easements or other interests in land.

FY 2005 FRPP Statewide Activities				
County	Type	# of Contracts	Acres	Federal Share
Boulder	Farm	1	63.6	\$95,656
Custer	Ranch	1	500	\$312,500
Gunnison	Ranch	1	103.6	\$203,956
Montezuma	Ranch	2	936	\$1,363,000
Pueblo	Ranch	1	440	\$231,000
Saguache	Ranch	8	4,606	\$1,734,520
Teller	Ranch	1	375	\$465,000
Total		15	7,024	\$4,405,632

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was reauthorized in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill) to provide a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality. It provides financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management conservation practices on eligible agricultural land.

FY 2005 EQIP Contract Funding in the Lower South Platte River Watershed			
Natural Resource Concerns	Applications Received	Applications Contracted	\$ Amount Approved
Water Quality/Quantity	103	36	\$1,086,445
Grassland	44	30	\$569,414
Soil Erosion	30	26	\$513,272
Animal Waste	16	11	\$573,807
Wildlife	8	6	\$32,284
Agro Forestry	17	14	\$44,767
CNMP	4	4	\$2,000
GSWC	7	3	\$49,066
GSWC - Outside High Plains	36	20	\$659,319
Total	265	150	\$3,530,374

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), a voluntary program, offers landowners technical and financial support to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property.

FY 2005 WRP Activities	
Number of Applications Received	12
Number of Applications Contracted	5
Dollar Amount Approved	\$1,524,456
Acres Under Contract	1,099
Statewide, another ten applications totaling \$4,483,489 are on the waiting list to fund 3,141 acres of easements.	

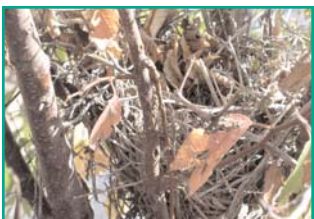
The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program that encourages creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations of national, state, Tribal, and local significance. Through WHIP, NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to landowners and others to develop upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat areas on their property.

FY 2005 WHIP Activities	
Number of Applications Received	1
Number of Applications Contracted	1
Dollar Amount Approved	\$37,050
Acres Under Contract	1,381

The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), a voluntary program, helps landowners restore and protect grasslands, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. It emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and grassland under the greatest threat of conversion.

FY 2005 GRP Activities	
Applications Received	137
Applications Contracted	1
Dollars Approved	\$251,100
Acres Under Contract	1,080

Lower South Platte River Watershed



Photos by NRCS Colorado Staff

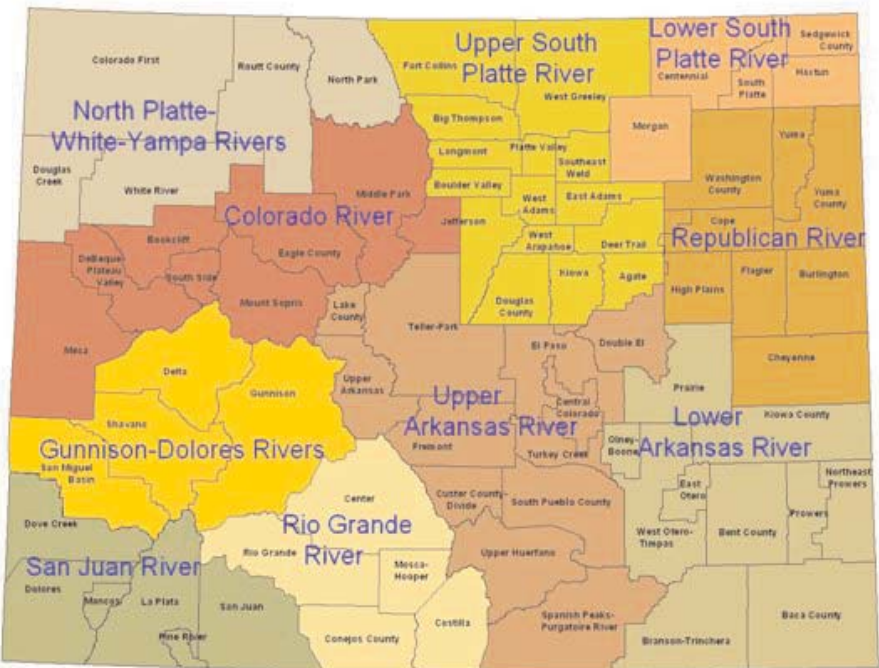


Watershed Profile

The Lower South Platte River Watershed totals 3,051,720 acres and includes all of Logan, Morgan, Phillips, and Sedgwick Counties, as well as a portion of eastern Weld County. There are approximately 2,050 farms in the watershed, over half of which are larger than 500 acres. NRCS natural resource specialists are staffed at the Fort Morgan, Holyoke, Julesburg, and Sterling USDA Field Service Centers to provide technical assistance, as well as incentive and cost-share program information to watershed residents.

NRCS Colorado looks to each watershed to identify its particular local resource needs and priorities. The Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD) provides leadership in this effort to foster increased decision making at the local level. In the Lower South Platte River Watershed there are five Conservation Districts which organized a locally-led watershed work group that identified its major resource concerns as soil erosion, water quality, water quantity, noxious weeds, and range health. Ultimately, the work group will set goals, identify programs and other sources to address its natural resource concerns, develop proposals and recommendations,

Colorado Watershed Associations and Conservation Districts



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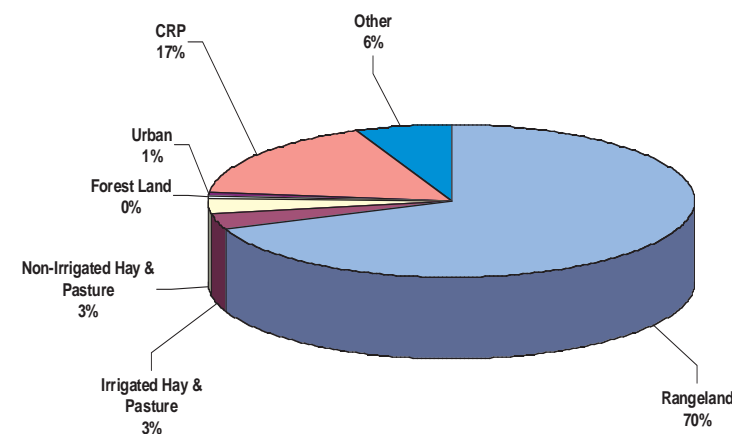
High Priority Resource Concerns

as identified by a locally-led Watershed Work Group

Soil Erosion Water Quality Water Quantity Noxious Weeds Range Health

Land Use

Lower South Platte Watershed Land Use 2004



Note: Acreages are a compilation of data from the USDA-NASS Census of Agriculture; USDA-NRCS Natural Resources Inventory; USDI-USGS National Land Cover Dataset; State of Colorado-DNR Colorado Decision Support Systems.

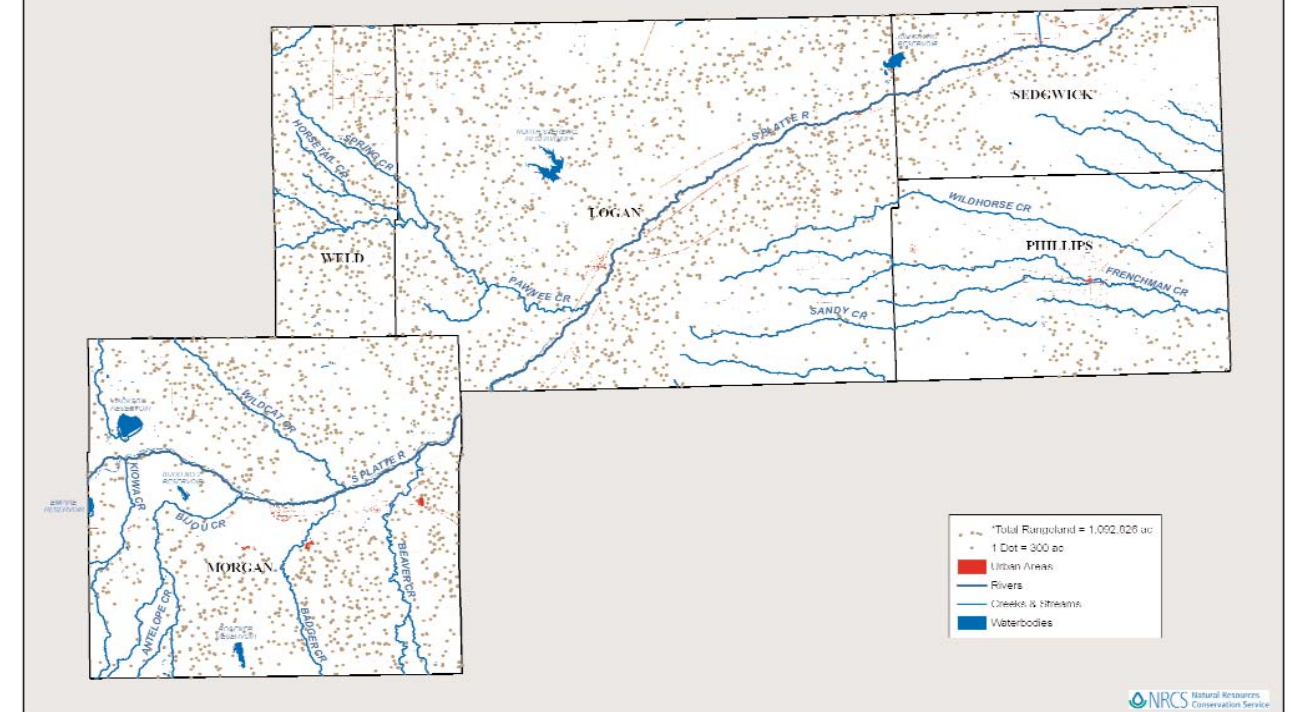


3,051,720 Acres

Acres

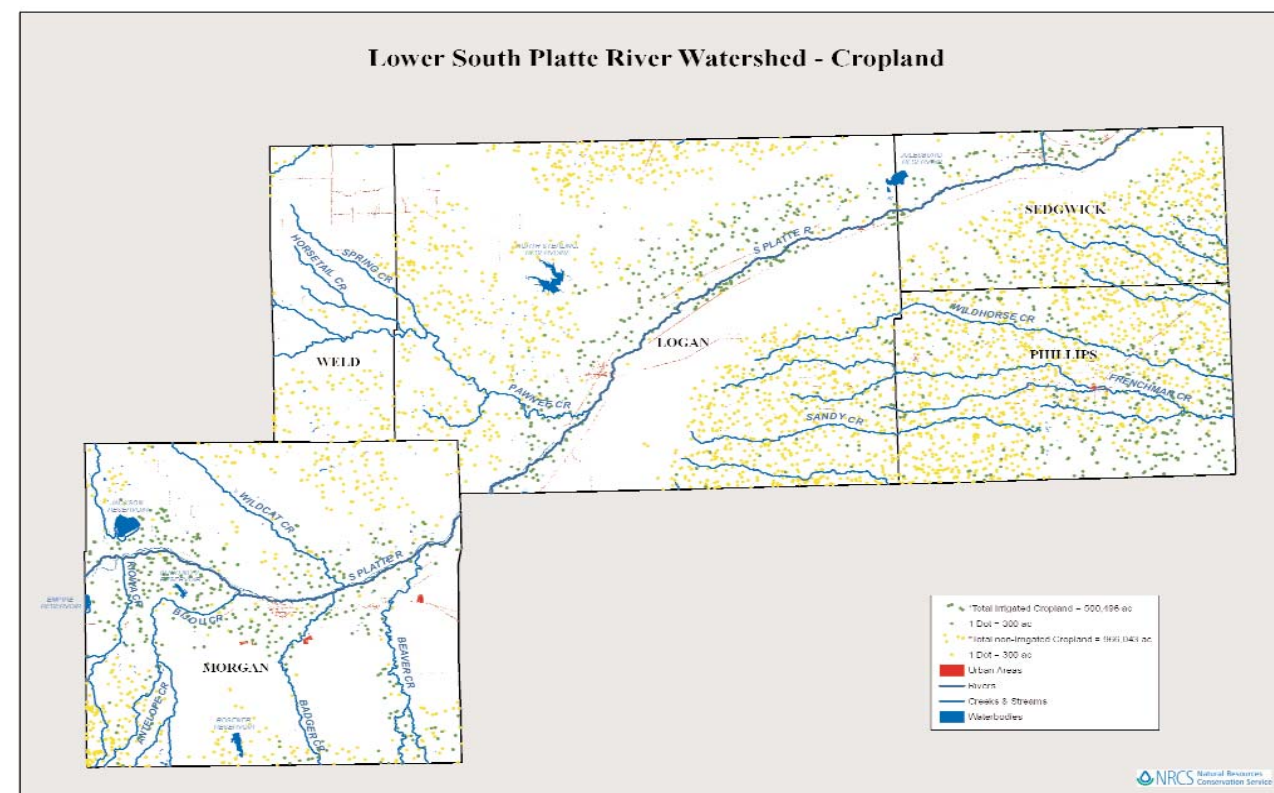
Irrigated Cropland	500,496
Non-Irrigated Cropland	966,043
Rangeland	1,092,826
Irrigated Hay & Pasture	52,000
Non-Irrigated Hay & Pasture	55,000
Forestland	5,800
Urban	15,000
CRP	264,555

Lower South Platte River Watershed - Rangeland



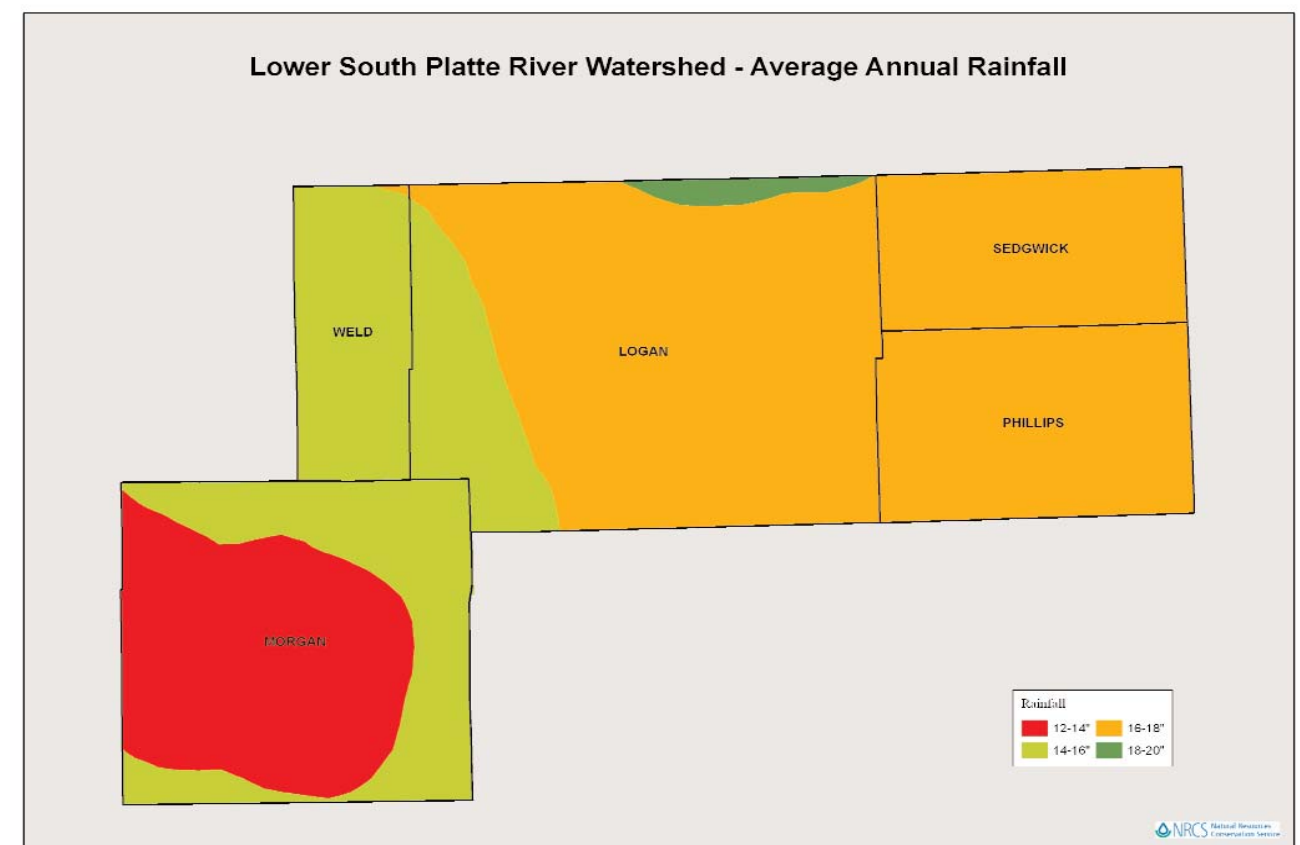
NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

Lower South Platte River Watershed - Cropland



NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

Lower South Platte River Watershed - Average Annual Rainfall



NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service